

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 JUSE-00 OMB-01 /064 W

----- 045717

R 170930Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2336

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: MIKI'S SEPTEMBER 16 PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: AT HIS SEPTEMBER 16 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER MIKI CAREFULLY AVOIDED IRRITATING HIS LDP ENEMIES BY FUDGING HIS ANSWERS TO SUCH QUESTIONS AS THE DISCLOSURE OF "GREY AREA" LOCKHEED NAMES AND WHETHER OR WHEN HE WOULD DISSOLVE THE LOWER HOUSE. HE EXPLAINED HIS NEW CABINET AND PARTY APPOINTMENTS, SPOKE ON PENDING ISSUES AND THE NECESSITY OF COMPLETING THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION, BUT DID NOT MENTION FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES OR HIS LONG-RANGE INTENTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT HIS SEPTEMBER 16 PRESS CONFERENCE, A VERY WEARY TAKEO MIKI ADDRESSED ONLY ISSUES OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE. IN RESPONDING TO POINTED QUESTIONS, HE WAS MOST CAREFUL TO AVOID IRRITATING LDP ANTI-MIKI FORCES, CAREFULLY  
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EVADING, FOR EXAMPLE, CONCRETE ANSWERS TO SUCH QUESTIONS AS

WHETHER AND WHEN HE MIGHT DISSOLVE THE LOWER HOUSE AND HOW HE WOULD HANDLE THE DISCLOSURE OF SO-CALLED "GREY AREA" NAMES -- THOSE WHO HAD BEEN IMPLICATED IN THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL BUT WHO WERE ININDICTABLE. HE ALSO FAILED TO PROVIDE ANY INSIGHTS INTO HIS LONG-RANGE THINKING, CONFINING HIS REMARKS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSING PENDING LEGISLATION, HANDLING TYPHOON-DAMAGE MEASURES, AND CLEARING UP THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR. HE DID NOT TOUCH ON FOREIGN POLICY. OPPOSITION AND MEDIA REGARD MIKI'S STAND ON "GREY-AREA" NAMES AS A RETREAT, NECESSITATED BY THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED COMPROMISE WITH ANTI-MIKI FORCES. IT MAY ALSO BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO MIKI'S SHORT TERM TACTICS OF AVOIDING UNNECESSARILY IRRITATING HIS LDP ENEMIES. ALSO, AT THE TIME OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE, DECISIONS HAD NOT YET BEEN REACHED ON LENGTH OF DIET SESSION (IT HAS SINCE BEEN SET AT FIFTY DAYS) OR AGENDA, AND MIKI MAY NOT HAVE WISHED TO MUDDY THOSE WATERS. WHILE DIET HELD A PLENARY SESSION SEPTEMBER 16, NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR OPENING CEREMONIES OR GOVERNMENT SPEECHES. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, EXPECTED NEXT WEEK.

2. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF MIKI'S REMARKS:

MIKI OPENED HIS SEPTEMBER 16 PRESS CONFERENCE BY EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR TYPHOON VICTIMS AND APOLOGISING FOR THE PROTRACTED LDP POWER STRUGGLE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RESHUFFLE OF PARTY AND CABINET OFFICIALS WOULD LEAD TO A FRESH START. HE SAID THAT CONFUSION IN PARTY WAS PARTLY DUE TO HIS OWN INSUFFICIENCIES, BUT ALSO DUE TO FACTIONAL EMOTIONS AND THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL. HE DENIED THAT THERE WERE ANY FUNDAMENTAL POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIMSELF AND ANTI-MIKI LDP FORCES. HE WAS A CONSERVATIVE, HIMSELF, BUT OLD-STYLE CONSERVATISM WAS A THING OF THE PAST THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND EVEN CONSERVATIVES MUST REFORM WITH THE TIMES.

3. TURNING TO PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLE, MIKI SAID HE HAD KEPT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, FINMIN OHIRA AND MITI MIN KOMOTO IN HIS CABINET BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF PURSUING ECONOMIC RECOVERY; JUSTICE MINISTER INABA REMAINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO WIND UP LOCKHEED AFFAIR; DEFENSE AND EDUCATION MINISTERS WERE KEPT ON BECAUSE THEY WERE FACING "NEW PROBLEMS." HIS THREE CRITERIA FOR CABINET SELECTION WERE THAT PERSONS NOT ACT AS FACTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES BUT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF MIKI CABINET, THAT THEY BE CLEAN, AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE CONNECTED WITH PAST PROBLEMS. FINMIN MIYAZAWA WAS REPLACED BECAUSE IT WAS TIME TO REEXAMINE JAPANESE DIPLOMACY, NOT BECAUSE OF JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS.

MIKI PRAISED THE NEW PARTY EXECUTIVES, WHO WERE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF INTRA-PARTY CONSULTATION, AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD WORK FOR PARTY UNITY.

4. MIKI SAID HE WAS NOT THINKING OF CONFINING FORTH-COMING DIET DELIBERATIONS ONLY TO PENDING MATTERS (FINANCIAL BILL) AND THAT HE EXPECTED TO TAKE UP NATIONAL RAILROAD AND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH RATE QUESTION WHICH HE THOUGHT OPPOSITION COULD ALSO UNDERSTAND.

5. TURNING TO LOCKHEED, PRIMIN SAID THAT PARTY HAD RESOLVED TO CLEAR UP LOCKHEED AFFAIR AND, WHILE THERE WERE SOME OPINIONS THAT INVESTIGATIONS HAD GONE TOO FAR, HE DID NOT THINK SITUATION COULD BE LEFT UNCLEAR. HE HOPED TO USE A LOCKHEED SOLUTION AS A CHANCE FOR REBIRTH OF PARTY. HE SAID DISCLOSURE PER SE WAS NOT HIS OBJECTIVE, BUT HE BELIEVED THERE WERE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM LOCKHEED. HE SAID THERE WERE VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF EXPRESSION "GRAY AREA" NAMES AND THAT THESE WOULD BE USEFUL REFERENCES IN ARRIVING AT A GOVERNMENT DEFINITION. WHILE THERE WERE NUMEROUS RESTRAINTS, HE WISHED TO FURNISH ALL FACTS TO THE PEOPLE WHEN INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETED. MIKI SAID THAT LDP HAD REACHED NO FINAL DECISION ON DEFINITIONS, NOT HAD SOCIETY AS A WHOLE. THE PROBLEM WAS VERY DIFFICULT. MIKI SAID THAT CLARIFICATION OF "KODAMA ROUTE" WAS MOST IMPORTANT. DISCLOSURE OF FACTS WOULD BE MADE AFTER SUCH CLARIFICATION, UNLESS IT APPEARED THAT INVESTIGATION WAS TAKING TOO LONG, IN WHICH CASE IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT SOME ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN EARLIER. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO REPORTS INDICATING WHEN KODAMA INVESTIGATION MIGHT BE COMPLETED. (JUSTICE MINISTER INABA SAID IN A SEPTEMBER 17 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE EXPECTED INVESTIGATION TO BE COMPLETED BY END OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCTOBER.) WHEN PRESSED ON QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE COULD BE FULL DISCLOSURE OF LOCKHEED FACTS DURING DIET SESSION, MIKI RESPONDED THAT QUESTION WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AT TIME, BUT HIS PRESENT THINKING WAS THAT IT WAS BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL ALL FACTS WERE IN HAND. ON QUESTION OF CALLING DIET MEMBERS AS WITNESSES BEFORE SPECIAL LOCKHEED COMMITTEE, MIKI SAID HE WOULD LEAVE THAT UP TO COMMITTEE TO DECIDE.

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

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6. TURNING TO QUESTION OF EXTRAORDINARY LDP CONVENTION, MIKI SAID THAT TIMING WOULD DEPEND ON PROGRESS OF DIET DELIBERATIONS. HE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS AGENCY (I.E., WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE A PARTY PRESIDENT ELECTION) WITH CONVENTION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. MIKI EVADED QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE STILL INTENDED TO LEAD PARTY INTO THE ELECTION, NOTING ONLY THAT THERE WERE VARIOUS OPINIONS WITHIN PARTY WHICH HE WISHED TO COORDINATE AND THAT HIS MISSION AT PRESENT WAS TO DISPOSE OF PENDING ISSUES AND CLARIFY LOCKHEED SCANDAL. BEYOND THAT, HE HAD HIS OWN PROGRAM (WHICH HE DID NOT ELABORATE).

7. WHEN ASKED ABOUT A LOWERHOUSE DISSOLUTION, MIKI SAID THAT AT A TIME WHEN HE WAS GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO PASSAGE OF PENDING BILLS, IT WAS NOT USEFUL TO CONSIDER DISSOLUTION. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD CONSIDER DISSOLUTION IF DIET DELIBERATIONS BROKE DOWN (AS HE HAD EARLIER STATED) MIKI EVADED THE QUESTION BY MERELY RESPONDING THAT DISSOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED

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LIGHTLY.

8. COMMENT: MEDIA CRITICISM OF MIKI STAND ON RELEASE  
OF "GRAY-AREA" NAMES MAY BE FIRST SIGN OF WEAKENING OF  
MEDIA SUPPORT ON WHICH MIKI HAS RELIED SO HEAVILY. MIKI  
COULD REGAIN SUPPORT QUICKLY, HOWEVER, BY RESTAINING  
UNEQUIVOCAL INTENTION REGARDING DISCLOSURE.  
HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, SOPN, JA, LOCKHEED, (MIKI, TAKEO)  
**To:** STATE  
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